

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MILAN 00130 01 OF 02 241415Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 COME-00
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /068 W
-----241509Z 022466 /53

R 241230Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5184

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MILAN 0130

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PINT, IT, PGOV, PFOR

SUBJECT: CABLE FROM VERONA, JANUARY 19, 1977

1. SUMMARY. JUST AS TIME ELAPSED BETWEEN SHAKESPEARE AND US HAS HARDLY DIMINISHED VERONA'S PROSPERITY AND CHARM, NEITHER HAVE POST-WAR YEARS SEEN MUCH DIMINUTION IN DC POWER. THIS DESPITE STEADY AND SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST ELECTORAL GAINS. ALTHOUGH DC NOW RULES WITH PSI PARTNERS AND RECEIVES COMMUNIST OUTSIDE SUPPORT, OBSERVERS AGREED THAT DC WHEELERS AND DEALERS--WITH MINISTER OF STATE INDUSTRIES BISAGLIA IN LEAD--STILL HAVE FAIRLY GOOD GRASP ON LEVERS OF LOCAL POWER. END SUMMARY.

2. VISITOR TO VERONA THESE DAYS IS APT TO ASK HIMSELF WHY ANYONE WOULD LIVE ELSEWHERE. VERONA CITY--WITH 300,000 PEOPLE, NOT EXACTLY SMALL TOWN--HAS ELEGANT, ANTIQUE CITY CENTER, FAMOUS ARENA AMPHITHEATER, AND GENERAL LOOK OF PROSPERITY. PROVINCE BOASTS MAGNIFICENT LAKE GARDA AND PERHAPS MOST PROFITABLE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN COUNTRY. DOZEN LOCAL LEADERS WITH WHOM EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ECONOMIC OFFICER, AND LOCAL ECONOMIC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MILAN 00130 01 OF 02 241415Z

SPECIALIST SPOKE JANUARY 19 GENERALLY AGREED THAT, TO ADD TO ALL THIS, VERONA NOT BADLY GOVERNED EITHER. THEY INCLUDED VICE MAYOR, PRESIDENT OF PROVINCE, PSI PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, EDITOR OF LOCAL PAPER, DC PROVINCIAL ALDERMAN FOR AGRICULTURE, AS WELL AS HEADS OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND FOUR AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.

3. VERONA, WHOSE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT IS AMONG HIGHEST OF ANY PROVINCE IN COUNTRY, HAD GOOD YEAR IN THAT AREA AS WELL AS OTHERS IN 1976. MOST IMPORTANT FARM SECTORS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, WINE, AND MEAT ALL RECOVERED WELL FROM 1975. PROVINCE EXPORTED 30 PER CENT OF FARM PRODUCT AND SAW INTERNAL DEMAND GO UP, TOO. OTHER IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES, ALL IN GOOD SHPAE, ARE FURNITURE, SHOES, AND SWEETS.

4. NOT THAT EVERYTHING IS PERFECT. TEXTILE FACTORY WITH OUMODED PLANT AND TOO MANY WORKERS (1300) WAS RECENTLY ACQUIRED FROM DEPARTING FRENCH OWNERS BY CITY GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS LOOKING FOR BUYER WITH CAPITAL TO DO NECESSARY MODERNIZATION. ANOTHER MAKER OF CLOTHING WAS ALSO HAVING MINOR DIFFICULTIES. IN AGRICULTURE, PROVINCE SUFFERS FROM LARGE NUMBER FAMILY-OWNED FARMS TOO SMALL TO BE COMPETITIVE. THEY FIND HIGH COST OF LABOR THEIR BIGGEST ALBATROSS. HEAD OF DC FAMILY FARM ASSOCIATION (COLDIRETTI) CALLED HIGH LABOR COSTS ITALY'S NUMBER ONE FARM PROBLEM AS FAR AS COMPETITIVITY WITHIN EC IS CONCERNED.

5. ALTHOUGH DC REMAINS BY FAR VERONA'S LARGEST PARTY (55 PERCENT OF VERONA-VICENZA CONSTITUENCY VOTE IN JUNE 1976), VERONA HAS HAD CENTER-LEFT ADMINISTRATIONS SINCE 1966 AND HAS SEEN PCI VOTE RISE FROM 16 PERCENT IN 1972 TO 21 PERCENT LAST YEAR (FIGURES STILL THOSE OF CONSTITUENCY). SITUATION NOW IN BOTH CITY AND PROVINCE IS DC-0PSI EXECUTIVE (GIUNTA) WITH OUTSIDE SUPPORT FROM CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MILAN 00130 01 OF 02 241415Z

OTHER PARTIES (INCLUDING PCI) EXCEPT NEO-FASCISTS AND EXTREME LEFT. SPECIAL VERONA TWIST, AS EXPLAINED BY APPARENTLY COMPETENT PSI BUSINESSMAN VICE MAYOR, IS THAT COMMUNISTS OFTEN VOTE IN FAVOR OF LEGISLATION RATHER THAN ABSTAINING. FURTHERMORE, AS IN LOMBARDY REGION "OPEN GIUNTA" SOLUTION, PCI DOES NOT DISCUSS COMPLETED DRAFT LAWS WITH GIUNTA PARTIES BUT RATHER PARTICIPATES IN THEIR ELABORATION. VICE MAYOR SAID IT WAS SOCIALISTS WHO HAD INSISTED THAT PCI BE MADE TO TAKE ACTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION DECISIONS AND CLAIMED RESULTS HAVE BEEN GRATIFYING. PCI HAD JUST VOTED IN FAVOR OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY PRICE INCREASES, WELCOME SHOW OF SOLIDARITY THAT MADE LIFE EASIER FOR EVERYBODY ELSE.

6. OTHERS MADE POINT THAT, WHATEVER THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION FORMAT, IT WAS DC WHO RAN THINGS. TWO MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN PROVINCE, SAID BUMPTIOUS, RIGHT WING LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITOR, ARE DC MAYOR RENATO GOZZI AND

DC VENETO REGIONAL PRESIDENT ANGELO TOMELLERI. SAY
WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT THEM, HE ADDED, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
ARE GOOD DEAL SLYER THAN THEIR COMPETITORS. PSI PROVIN-
CIAL SECRETARY CHIMED IN THAT DC HAS FINGERS IN MOST
EVERYTHING AND PROGRESS HARD TO MAKE WITHOUT TRIPPING
OVER PARTY'S INTERESTS. WE NOTED THAT BANKS, CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE, AND LARGEST AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
(COLDIRETTI) ARE ALL IN DC HANDS. (COLDIRETTI HAS
18,000 OF PROVINCE 'S 20,000 FARM OWNERS AS MEMBERS
AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS HAVE REST. THESE 2,000 ARE
RELATIVELY LARGE, HOWEVER, ACCOUNTING FOR HALF OF
VERONA'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.)

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MILAN 00130 02 OF 02 241449Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 COME-00
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /068 W
-----241507Z 022904 /53

R 241230Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5185
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MILAN 0130

7. INTERNALLY, VERONA DC IS SLOWLY CHANGING. IMPORTATN
OLD-TIMERS STILL WIELD INFLUENCE, BUT FORMER PRIME
MINISTER MARIANO RUMOR'S IS ABOUT FINISHED AND MINISTER
OF STATE INDUSTRIES BISAGLIA'S SAID TO HAVE GROWN CON-
SIDERABLY. (BISAGLIA, ADDED EDITOR, HAS NOT BEEN HURT
BY ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN LOCKHEED AFFAIR.) AS ELSE-
WHERE, CHURCH INFLUENCE ON DC HAS DECLINED, THOUGH IT
IS FAR FROM DEAD. DC'S COLDIRETTI KEEPS FARM VOTE WELL
IN HAND. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO PROLIFERATION OF
NEW FACES, ONE OR TWO ARE IN EVIDENCE. RECENTLY-ELECTED
DEPUTY GIANMARIO PELLIZZARI, 30, PULTRY FARMER AND
AGRICULTURAL EXPERT, REPRESENTS INTERSTS OF DC VERONA
FARMERS ASSOCIATION (COLDIRETTI) AND IS SAID BY ORGANI-
ZATION'S LEADERS TO BE REAL COMER. ANOTHER BRIGHT LIGHT IS
WEALTHY, 20-YEAR OLD VERONA CITY COUNCILMAN NAMED
GRIGOLINI, CLOSE TO MINISTER BISAGLIA.

8. PSI ALSO SEEMS TO BE UNDERGOING INTERNAL CHANGES. BRAND NEW PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, THIRTYISH BUT STILL AMONG ELDEST ON PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE, SAID COMMITTEE BALANCE SHIFTED THIS TIME FROM MAJORITY ALLIED WITH EX-AGRICULTURAL MINISTER LUIGI BERTOLDI TO COALITION OF AUTONOMISTS, LEFTISTS (SINISTRA), AND INDEPENDENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MILAN 00130 02 OF 02 241449Z

HE HIMSELF WAS LEFTIST WHO, WHILE APPROVING NATIONAL PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI'S EMPHASIS ON YOUTH AND HIS ATTEMPTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH FOREIGN SOCIALISTS PARTIES, COMPALINED CRAXI HAD YET TO TELL PSI CLEARLY WHERE IT WAS GOING. ON PCI, SECRETARY REPEATED OTHER VERONA SOCIALISTS' FORMULATION THAT COMMUNISTS HAVE COME LONG WAY AS FAR AS DEMOCRATIC CONVICTIONS CONCERNED, ADDING-- UNDER PRODDING--THAT "WE SOCIALISTS" ALSO FEEL THEY MUST COME A LITTLE FARTHER. HE AND OTHERS AGREED "EMERGENCY" GOVERNMENT INCLUDING PCI WAS WHAT TIMES CALLED FOR. SECRETARY ADMITTED RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS PARTY AND LOCAL PCI WERE "TENSE" THOUGH THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF OPEN FIGHTING.

9. VERONA COMUNISTS APPEAR TO BE WORKING HARD (EDITOR CLAIMED TO KNOW PCI WAS SPENDING MORE IN VENETO REGION THAN IN ANY OTHER) AND TRYING TO BEHAVE CORRECTLY (PSI SECRETARY REPORTED WITH SOME IRRITATION THAT HIS PCI COUNTERPART WAS MAINTAINING PRECISELY SAME CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH HIM THAT HE HAD HAD WITH HIS PREDECESSOR, THOUGH TWO ARE OF DIFFERENT FACTIONS AND PRESUMABLY TAKE FORMALLY DIFFERENT STANCES VIS-A-VIS PCI). AS NOTED ABOVE, COMMUNISTS ARE PLAYING COOPERATIVE RATHER THAN OBSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

10. LOCAL JUDGMENT ON ITALY'S EC MEMBERSHIP AND EUROPEAN INTERGRATION WERE HIGHLY POSITIVE. PROVINCIAL DC ALDERMAN FOR AGRICULTURE WHO IS ALSO FARMER, EVEN AFTER ESTIMATING THAT FEOGA HAD BENEFITTED OTHER COUNTRIES MUCH MORE THAN ITALY, SAID HE WAS FOURSQUARE BEHIND ITALY'S MEMBERSHIP AND COMPLETELY IN FAVOR OF POLITICAL INTEGRATION HE HOPED WOULD EVENTUALLY FOLLOW. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HEAD SAID CAP HAD HELPED FARMERS BY PROVIDING MINIMUM PRICES IN BAD TIMES, ADDING THOUGH THAT THIS HAD REDUCED FARMERS' INCENTIVE TO PRODUCE MORE EFFICIENTLY. YOUNG PSI PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT WAS SIMILARLY ENTHUSIASTIC. HE SAID THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF SITING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MILAN 00130 02 OF 02 241449Z

NEW SCHOOL IN VERONA TO TRAIN ITALIANS AS EUROPEAN
CIVIL SERVANTS, PROJECT HE MUCH FAVORED.

11. VERONA, IN SUM, PROSPEROUS AND ALREADY BOASTING
EURO-CENTERED OUTLOOK, IS SITE OF INCREASINGLY POLARIZED
STRUGGL BETWEEN DC AND PCI, WITH DC STILL FAR AHEAD
BY VIRTUE OF LONG HOLD ON POWER. SOCIALISTS, LACKING
STRONG LEADERSHIP, HAVE YET TO MAKE ANY TANGIBLE PRO-
GRESS ON COMEBACK FROM LAST JUNE'S POOR ELECTORAL SHOWING.FINA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MILAN00130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770025-0250
Format: TEL
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770125/aaaaavlg.tel
Line Count: 234
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e91e2bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3522450
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABLE FROM VERONA, JANUARY 19, 1977
TAGS: ECON, PINT, PGOV, PFOR, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e91e2bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009